



D R A F T



GCSE

CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

Our qualification brings a fresh approach to citizenship studies while maintaining some familiarity with, and drawing on the strengths of, the previous short course.

We are introducing a full course for the first time while continuing to offer a coherent but flexible specification.

What's happening to GCSEs?

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and learners alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so teachers can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.

*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.



Improving GCSE Citizenship Studies with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE Citizenship Studies. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.



Our GCSE Citizenship Studies offers:

- Coverage of all the areas in the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study
- The familiarity of the resource booklet, which will also appeal to new centres
- Clear guidance with examples of teaching outcomes throughout
- Active citizenship as a key theme, engaging candidates in their community.

Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website www.GCSEchanges.com
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with GCEs
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

Controlled assessment

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as an alternative to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.



The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, we provide worksheets for students to complete
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

For GCSE Citizenship Studies, controlled assessment means:

- Task setting – A number of controlled assessment tasks will be available from OCR.
- Task taking – OCR has provided clear guidance to centres within the specification regarding authenticity, feedback, time and collaboration control, and access to resources.
- Task marking – Centres use marking criteria to mark the controlled assessment which is then forwarded to OCR for moderation.

We will review our controlled assessment tasks every two years.

Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

You may know 'unitised' as modular.

GCSE Citizenship Studies

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting (including short course weightings)
Unit A341: Getting Started as an Active Citizen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible action to support individual and community rights and engage in the democratic process Responsible action to support school and community development Responsible action to support the economy and welfare systems Action and change as a global citizen. 	Controlled assessment Component 1a – Maximum of 2 hours Component 1b - Maximum of 1 hour Active citizenship based tasks	30% full course 60% short course
Unit A342: Understanding our Roles as Citizens in Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights and responsibilities of individuals in personal relationships, families and at school/ college Rights and responsibilities within our democracy and the legal and justice system Rights and responsibilities of consumers, employers and employees, tenants and landlords Citizenship, identity and community in the United Kingdom Democracy and the electoral process The United Kingdom's relationships in Europe, including the European Union, and relationships with the Commonwealth and United Nations. 	Computer-based test or written examination 1 hour Two equally weighted sections: Section A: Short answer questions Section B: Four short case studies	20% full course 40% short course
Unit A343: Leading the Way as an Informed Citizen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible action to support individual rights and engage in the democratic process Action and change as a global citizen Citizenship, identity and community in the United Kingdom Democracy and the electoral process The United Kingdom's relationships in Europe, including the European Union, and relationships with the Commonwealth and United Nations. 	Controlled assessment Maximum of 4 hours Using resource booklet based on topical theme or issue	30% full course
Unit A344: Becoming an Active Citizen in the Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible action to support school and community development Responsible action to support the economy and welfare systems Rights and responsibilities of individuals in personal relationships, families and at school/ college Rights and responsibilities within our democracy and the legal and justice system Rights and responsibilities of consumers, employers and employees, tenants and landlords. 	Written examination 1 hour Section A: Short answer questions Section B: Major active citizen based case study	20% full course

Short courses

We also offer a short course in GCSE Citizenship Studies, equivalent to half a GCSE. This offers several advantages:

- There are only two units to complete.

- Students who are interested in a particular subject, but don't have time to study a full course, have more learning options.
- Students can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.

- More able students can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.

What changes, and what stays the same?

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure & content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New full course available for the first time from 2009• Unitised structure (see section on flexible assessment)• Content changed to reflect new Programme of Study changes at Key Stage 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No tiering• Short course still available and is nested within the new full course.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No coursework B. Centres no longer need to choose topics or themes as controlled assessment tasks are supplied by OCR• Coursework replaced by controlled assessment• Internal assessment weighting has increased from 40% to 60%• Introduction of active citizenship-based report• Resource book now a part of the internal assessment instead of the written paper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of a resource book• Familiar structure to assessment.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Citizenship Studies.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1

- Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of citizenship concepts, issues and terminology.

AO2

- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding when planning, taking and evaluating citizenship actions in a variety of contexts.

AO3

- Analyse and evaluate issues and evidence, including different viewpoints, to construct reasoned arguments and draw conclusions.

Support for GCSE Citizenship Studies

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See over for more details.



Training for OCR GCSE Citizenship Studies

Our Get Ready events offer a taste of the new specification. Dates are given below, and you can book your place now at www.GCSEchanges.com.

Later, we'll be running our Get Started events, which take you through the specification in more detail and help you work towards first teaching. They will take place during the spring and summer terms 2009.

Get Ready – introducing the new specification (first teaching from September 2009)*

This course is for all teachers – new and experienced – who are interested in finding out more about the new specification. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current OCR specification.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, including refreshments, a light finger buffet and course

materials, offering an overview of the new OCR specification in GCSE Citizenship Studies. Key features include:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from OCR
- A summary of the benefits of choosing the new OCR specification.

Date	Location	Course code
Wed 2 Jul 08 AM	Birmingham	OCZA101
Wed 2 Jul 08 PM	Birmingham	OCZA102
Fri 11 Jul 08 AM	Manchester	OCZA103
Fri 11 Jul 08 PM	Manchester	OCZA104
Tues 15 Jul 08 AM	London	OCZA105
Tues 15 Jul 08 PM	London	OCZA106
Tues 23 Sept 08 AM	Manchester	OCZA107
Fri 26 Sept 08 AM	Birmingham	OCZA108
Fri 26 Sept 08 PM	Birmingham	OCZA109
Thurs 2 Oct 08 AM	Newcastle	OCZA110
Tues 7 Oct 08 AM	London	OCZA111
Tues 7 Oct 08 PM	London	OCZA112
Fri 10 Oct 08 AM	Bristol	OCZA113
Tues 14 Oct 08 AM	Nottingham	OCZA114
Tues 6 Jan 09 AM	Birmingham	OCZA115
Tues 6 Jan 09 PM	Birmingham	OCZA116
Fri 9 Jan 09 AM	London	OCZA117
Fri 9 Jan 09 PM	London	OCZA118

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- *The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.

Publishing support for GCSE Citizenship Studies teachers

We're working with publisher partner Hodder Education to provide further resources to support teachers of the new specification.

Hodder Education will bring its extensive expertise – and links with bodies such as the Citizenship Foundation – to OCR.



To find the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/citizenship/newgcse and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.



www.ocr.org.uk

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